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Haverhill
No. 1183 / 11.
Haverhill Urban District

IN THE

Administrative County of West Suffolk

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

— 1935 —



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1935 on the Sanitary Conditions, Health, and Vital Statistics of the Haverhill Urban District.

The report is an Ordinary Report drawn up in accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 1492 dated October 18th, 1935.

The health of the District has continued to be good, and there are no outstanding circumstances that call for special comment.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	...	...	2,530 Acres.	
Estimated Resident Population 1935	...	...	...	3,733
Census population, 1921	...	...	4,083	
1931	...	...	3,828	
Decrease	...	...	...	255

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935) according to the Rate	
Books	1,191
Rateable Value	£15,037
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£58 5s.
Rates	14/8
(County Rate: 12/1. U.D.C. Rate: 2/6. Assessment Committee 1d.)	

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready-made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, etc. There are no industries or occupations that are likely to exert a prejudicial effect upon the public health. A market is held weekly, the town being a centre for the surrounding villages.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR.*Live Births:*

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	39	17	22
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Grand Total	41	17	24

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population	10.9
Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	14.7

Stillbirths:

Legitimate	Nil.
Illegitimate	

Deaths:

Total.	Male.	Female.
54	28	26

(a) Crude Death Rate per thousand estimated resident population	14.4
(b) Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution (factor .76)	10.9
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	11.7

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Other puerperal causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	1
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

Death Rate of infants per thousand legitimate live births ... 77.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)... Nil

The 54 deaths took place at the following age periods :—

		Male.		Female.		Total.
Under 1 year	...	2	...	1	...	3
1 and under 2	...	—	...	—	...	—
2	„ 5	...	—	...	—	...
5	„ 15	...	—	...	—	...
15	„ 25	...	2	...	—	...
25	„ 35	...	—	...	—	...
35	„ 45	...	3	...	2	...
45	„ 55	...	2	...	3	...
55	„ 65	...	2	...	2	...
65	„ 75	...	6	...	5	...
75 and upwards	...	11	...	13	...	24
		—		—		—
Totals		28		26		54

**Table Classifying Deaths according to
Cause and Sex.**

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers			
Measles			
Scarlet Fever			
Whooping Cough			
Diphtheria			
Influenza... ..	2		2
Encephalitis Lethargica			
Cerebro Spinal Fever			
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		3	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases			
Syphilis			
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	1		1
Cancer	2	3	5
Diabetes			
Cerebral hæmorrhage		2	2
Heart Disease	7	6	13
Aneurysm			
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	3	12
Bronchitis		1	1
Pneumonia	2		2
Other Respiratory Diseases			
Peptic Ulcer	1		1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)			
Appendicitis			
Cirrhosis of Liver			
Other Diseases of Liver... ..			
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	2		2
Puerperal Sepsis			
Other Puerperal Causes			
Congenital Causes, etc.... ..	1	1	2
Senility		3	3
Suicide		1	1
Other Violence		1	1
Other Defined Causes		1	1
Ill-Defined Causes			
Special Causes (included under " Other Defined Causes " above)			
Small Pox			
Poliomyelitis			
Polioencephalitis			
Totals	28	26	54

Deaths from certain special diseases during the last five years as compared with the present year:—

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Cancer	6	9	12	11	16	5
Tuberculosis (all forms)	2	1	3		1	3
Influenza... ..		1		1	1	2
Pneumonia	2	2	1	1		2
Measles						
Whooping Cough						
Scarlet Fever						
Diphtheria						

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health, who also acts for other districts in West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.
- (b) Mr. J. H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Housing Officer, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is a whole time one. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There are no alterations to record so far as public health services including hospital accommodation for infectious disease, are concerned.

A small isolation hospital of ten beds is maintained by the Urban District Council. The accommodation, however, is such that only cases of one disease at a time can be admitted. No permanent nursing staff is kept, and practitioners attend their own cases. In practice the admissions have been limited to cases of scarlet fever it having been possible to arrange for other diseases, such as diphtheria, to be treated in hospitals outside the area. The single case of diphtheria that occurred during the year was sent to the Newmarket Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital near Newmarket. The question of providing a central isolation hospital for the County of West Suffolk is receiving consideration.

General Hospitals:

There are no general hospitals in the area. Patients requiring hospital treatment are sent either to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's. The number of in-patients admitted to the former institution during the year was 62 as against 57 in 1934, 56 in 1933, 60 in 1932, 42 in 1931 and 45 in 1930.

Ambulance Facilities:

A horse ambulance is provided at the isolation hospital for the removal of cases of infectious disease. This is sufficient for the purpose as the distances covered are limited. A motor ambulance has been provided by public subscription for dealing with cases of ordinary illness and accident. This ambulance made 47 journeys during the year. The ambulance services can be regarded as adequate.

Laboratory Work:

Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent either to the County Laboratory, Bury St. Edmund's, or to Dr. W. H. Harvey, at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:

The supply is obtained from the chalk. A well 103 feet deep with 2 headings, running North and South, and 2 boreholes, one to a depth of 250 feet, and the other 350 feet. Deep well three throw pumps in duplicate and one borehole pump, each capable of delivering 10,000 gallons per hour. The supply is ample and the mains reach all dwellings except a few isolated houses.

The water is of good quality but is very hard. There is no doubt but that the provision of a water softening plant would be a great asset both from the point of view of the domestic and commercial user. The matter has been considered from time to time by the Council, but still remains in abeyance.

A sample was sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for analysis on December 13th, and the following is a copy of the report:—

Chemical results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal, Odour None
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.2, Free Carbonic Acid 3.3
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	...	...	...	880.
Total Solids, 180° C	...	...	...	59.0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	4.5.
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	Nil. Nitrites Absent.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	...	18.0.
Temporary	...	...	...	26.0.
Total	...	...	...	44.0.
Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0016
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F	...	...	...	0.0100

Bacteriological Results.

The Bacillus Coli	...	...	Absent in 50cc.
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Report:—This is a clear and bright water of normal colour, neutral reaction and containing an appreciable trace of Free Carbonic Acid. It is very hard in character, contains no excess of saline matter and is entirely free from metals.

The water is of a high degree of organic purity and good bacterial purity and is wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Number of dwelling-houses connected to the mains:

	(a) Within U.D.C. area	...	...	1163
	(b) Outside area	...	...	21
Length of mains	...	...	...	4½ miles
Number of houses connected to the mains during the year	...	...	...	13
Number of houses not connected to the mains:				
	(a) Within reach	...	...	3
	(b) Not within reach	...	...	27

The average daily consumption of water for 1935 was 81,043 gallons, and the total quantity of water pumped was 29,580,750 gallons. The average daily consumption per head of population is 21 gallons.

Variations in height of water in the well :—

1927	{ Maximum level, May	... 210.60ft.	above ordnance Datum
	{ Minimum level, Sept.	... 203.60ft.	" "
1928	{ Maximum level, March	... 213.40ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, October	... 201.70ft.	" "
1929	{ Maximum level, March	... 208.20ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, October	... 199.75ft.	" "
1930	{ Maximum level, April	... 210.10ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, October	... 204.80ft.	" "
1931	{ Maximum level, March	... 212.22ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, December	... 206.00ft.	" "
1932	{ Maximum level, June	... 208.00ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, October	... 203.55ft.	" "
1933	{ Maximum level, April	... 208.80ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, December	... 200.75ft.	" "
1934	{ Maximum level, April	... 201.00ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, December	... 197.75ft.	" "
1935	{ Maximum level, May	... 206.20ft.	" "
	{ Minimum level, January	... 198.60ft.	" "

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks :—

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
1935	2.47	2.29	0.39	2.55	1.28	2.26	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total ¹
	0.62	0.81	3.51	2.28	3.08	2.63	24.17

Snow or rain was recorded on 162 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on Oct. 10th, when 0.76 inches were registered. The total rainfall for the previous year was 17.96 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

The Swimming Bath is 75ft. x 30ft., with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. It is situated in the centre of the town. The water is supplied from the mains. The provision of a Filtration and Chlorination Plant has again been deferred.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Works are on the East side of the Town. The Sewage gravitates to the works through an 18 inch outfall sewer. A further portion of this main was relaid during the year. The system is partially separate.

The Sewage Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, contact and percolating filter, with final treatment on 5 acres of land, all under-drained, of which about 2 acres is terraced.

The effluent discharges into a tributary of the Stour. During the year the settling tanks were deepened and two contact filters were converted into a percolating filter 62ft. 6ins in diameter.

The pumping plant consists of crude oil engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

The Sewage is a strong sewage and a satisfactory effluent is obtained.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
No. of dwelling-houses connected with sewers ...	1081	1085	1085	1107	1112	1112	1118	1130	1133
„ dwelling-houses not connected with sewers ...	65	65	63	63	63	63	61	60	60
„ dwelling-houses with flushing cisterns ...	319	332	343	374	399	428	474	540	701
„ dwelling-houses with waste water flushing	754	753	741	733	713	686	648	590	434
„ conversions from waste water flushing to flushing cisterns ..	52	7	9	6	11	23	38	46	149
„ privies ...	14	14	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
„ pail closets ...	36	36	36	36	36	36	34	33	33
„ cesspools ...	—	—	—	2	2	4	4	4	4

SCAVENGING AND DISPOSAL.

Collections are made weekly from about 1,150 premises. Collection is made in a covered van. The whole of the refuse from one section of the town, representing about 65 per cent. of the whole, is tipped into a disused brickyard and covered. The remaining 35 per cent. is disposed of in a similar manner during the winter months in another disused brickyard, but during the summer months this refuse is taken to the Sewage Works, sorted and disposed of.

The provision of sanitary dustbins has not been made compulsory.

The annual cost of collection and disposals is £190.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2574
Dwelling-houses—Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	914	
Structural defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	33	
Other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	149	—1096
Complaints ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Schools ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Dairies and cowsheds ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Butchers' shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fried fish shops ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice cream premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
General inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	311
Re-inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	471
Sundry visits ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	615
Nuisances or defects found ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	176
„ „ remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Number of notices served during the year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
(a) Informal written... ..	38	Complied with ...	...	...	...	38	
(b) Statutory... ..	23	„ „ ...	...	...	...	18	

Disinfections :

Chamber of premises disinfected after infectious disease	15
" " " for other reasons	3
Bedding steam disinfected	15

Special classes of Premises and Occupations subject to control by the Local Authority :

There are no offensive trades, houses let in lodgings, underground sleeping rooms, tents, sheds, etc., in the district.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Shops Act, 1934 :—There are 89 Shops. With few exceptions these are provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation, etc. In one case new sanitary and washing accommodation was provided, and another additional sanitary accommodation has been provided.

Schools :

Two :—(1) A Secondary School with 102 pupils (60 boys, 42 girls).
(2) A Council School with 444 pupils (232 boys, 212 girls). Water supply and sanitation are satisfactory and there are no alterations to report.

HOUSING.

The second year's programme under the Housing Act, 1930, was nearly completed during the year. The programme comprised four clearance areas including 11 houses and 2 individual unfit houses, and necessitated the displacement of 40 persons. One owner lodged an objection with the Ministry of Health and a Public Inquiry was held. Confirming orders were made in all cases. Eight A3 type houses were erected, and these are let at differential rents up to 5s. 4d. per week inclusive.

Application has also been made to the Ministry of Health for confirmation of two further Clearance Areas, which concludes the Council's programme.

Sanction has also been obtained and contracts let for the erection of 12 A3 houses under the 1925 Act, to be erected on the Mill Hill site, the economic inclusive rents of these are expected to be about 9s. 6d. per week.

The total number of houses erected at the end of 1935, under the various Housing Acts, is 113, viz. :—

- 10 Parlour-type houses under the 1919 Act, let at 8s. 6d. per week exclusive of rates.
- 81 Non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1924 Act, let at inclusive rents from 6s. 10d. to 9s. 1d. per week.
- 6 Non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1925 Act, let at inclusive rents of 7s. 10d. to 9s. 4d. per week.
- 16 Non-parlour type 3 bedroom houses under the 1930 Act, let at varying rents up to 5s. 4d. per week.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	224
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	538
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	53
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	147
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	64

II. REMEDY of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	59
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III. ACTION under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. *Proceedings under Section 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owner ...	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ...	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders... ..	1

D. *Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :

Number of cowkeepers or purveyors of milk on the Register :—

Wholesale Purveyors	None
Retail Purveyors	4
Retail Purveyors who are not cowkeepers ...	3
	7

The premises have been kept in a cleanly condition and no action has been necessary under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926.

Three samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological examination, the results of which were satisfactory.

There is only one cowkeeper (7 cows) in the Council's area. These premises are quite satisfactory. The largest retailers produce their milk on premises just outside the Council's area. There are three retailers who purchase their milk, in each case from producers in an adjoining area.

Meat Supply :

Number of registered slaughterhouses	2
Number of licensed slaughterhouses	4
Total	6

There is no difficulty either as regards water supply or drainage, and the premises generally are kept in a satisfactory condition. Twenty-six notices were received relating to slaughtering taking place at other than the registered times. The meat sold is, as a rule, of good quality and the amount found to be unfit for food comparatively small. During the year one bullock's carcass and 26 parts of pigs' carcasses were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

There are eight shops from which meat is sold. All have glass windows and every reasonable precaution appears to be taken to ensure cleanliness and to protect the meat exposed for sale from contamination. Two of the shops sell frozen or chilled meat, one frozen and fresh meat, and five fresh meat only.

Bakehouses :

There are five bakehouses, one of which is underground. There is little to comment upon as they are kept in a cleanly condition, water supply and drainage are both satisfactory, and the requirements of Section 99 of the Factories and Workshops Act relating to limewashing have been complied with.

Premises where Ice-Cream is Manufactured :

Hamlet Road	1
Queen Street	1
High Street	1
Withersfield Road... ..	2
Burton End	1
Downs Place	1
	7

These premises are suitable and kept in a clean condition.

Fried Fish Shops :

Queen Street	...	...	...	...	2
High Street	...	...	...	...	1
					3

No complaints have been received as to any nuisance caused by this particular trade.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious disease has continued to be low, and there is little that calls for comment. Excluding tuberculosis the only cases notified were 11 of scarlet fever, one of diphtheria, eight of pneumonia, and one of puerperal pyrexia.

The cases of scarlet fever were admitted to the Haverhill Urban District Isolation Hospital and the single case of diphtheria was sent to the Newmarket Rural District Isolation Hospital at Exning, near Newmarket.

For purposes of comparison I append the following table, which shews the number of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and pneumonia during the last ten years :—

	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Scarlet Fever	1	—	7	—	23	22	5	5	28	8	11
Diphtheria	—	—	3	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2	6	1	—	1	—	2	—	8

Disinfection :

Infected premises are disinfected by the formalin spray or by fumigation, and the Thresh Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital is available for disinfecting clothing and bedding. There are no special arrangements for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Bacteriological Examinations :

These are made either at the County Laboratory, Bury St. Edmund's, or by Dr. W. H. Harvey, at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge. Thirteen swabs were examined for diphtheria bacilli at the latter laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin :

Antitoxin is obtained by practitioners when required and, in suitable cases, the cost is borne by the District Council.

Public Health (Smallpox) Regulations, 1917 :

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed during the year by your Medical Officer of Health.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases :

From such information as is available there does not appear to have been any undue incidence of these diseases during the year under review. Influenza, however, has been rather more prevalent than usual and there were a considerable number of cases of measles during April, May and June.

Notifications were received from schools relating to 138 children excluded for various causes and measles accounted for 125 of these.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year, Analysis under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.										Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-
Scarlet Fever	11				1		2	5		3			
Diphtheria.. ..	1								1				
Pneumonia	8						1	1		2		2	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1			
Totals	21	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	1	6	-	2	11

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1935.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25		1				1		
35	1	1				2		
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals ..	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	—

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade), or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories, 15—Builders 1, Gasworks 1, Laundry 1, Printing Works 1, Foundries 2, Millers 3, Baker 1, Fopeworks 1, Textile 2, Saw Mills 1, Motor Engineers 1.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year, 35—Builders 2 Bootmakers 5, Basket Makers 1, Bakers 5, Bottling Stores 1, Cycle Repairers 3, Dressmakers 2, Milliners 2, Saddlers 2, Silkweavers 2, Shoeing Smiths 2, Stonemasons 2, Tailors 4, Motor Engineers 2.

					Inspections.	Notices.
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...			74	1
Factories	...	...	...	...	37	—
Total	...				111	1

Outworkers Lists :

Received from employers ... 4
 Outworkers, actual number ... 102
 Infected premises—Nil.
 Nature of outwork—Wearing apparel.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.



